

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 BIB-01 EB-07 FCC-02 OTPE-00  
COME-00 /035 W  
-----114490 282204Z /61

R 281320Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5766  
USIA WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBussy OTTAWA

UNCLAS TORONTO 1648

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, ETEL, SOPN, CA  
SUBJECT: ONTARIO COMMISSION ON MEDIA VIOLENCE REPORT DRAWS  
STRONG CRITICISM

JOINT STATE-USIS MESSAGE

1. THE RELEASE OF THE "REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY," POPULARLY  
KNOWN AS THE "LUMARSH REPORT" AFTER ITS CHAIRPERSON JUDY  
LAMARSH, WAS RECEIVED WITH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF  
GNASHING OF TYPEWRITERS AND CHEST THUMPING BY THE TORONTO  
PRESS. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, MEDIA RESPONSE REAGED FROM  
CRITICAL TO HIGHLY CRITICAL.

2. THE COMMISSION CREATED TWO YEARS AGO BY THE ONTARIO  
GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING TWO INCIDENTS OF TEENAGERS SHOOTING  
CLASSMATES AND TEACHERS TO EXAMINE THE EFFECT OF VIOLENCE  
IN THE MEDIA, RECOMMENDED A COMPLETE OVERHAUL AND RESTRUCTUR-  
ING OF CANADA'S TV AND FILM INDUSTRIES. OF THE 87 RECOM-  
MENDATIONS MADE, THE PROPOSED CREATION OF THREE  
NEW ORGANIZATIONS, TELEVISION CANADA, TELE-DISTRIBUTION  
CANADA AND FILMS CANADA AND THE WRITING OF A "FREEDOM  
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OF EXPRESSION ACT," RECEIVED THE MOST ATTENTION.

3. THE COMMISSION PROPOSED THAT ALP PROGRAMMING  
WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY TELEVISION CANADA, ALL DELIVERY  
SYSTEMS (CABLE, ETC.) WOULD BE COMBINED UNDER TELS-  
DISTRIBUTION, A GOVERNMENT/PRIVATE OWNERSHIP CORPORATION  
AND FILMS CANADA WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STIMULATING THE

FILM INDUSTRY AND WOULD HAVE UNDER ITS WING THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD, THE CANADIAN FILM DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND FAMOUS PLAYERS (NOT AT THE MOMENT OWNED BY THE GOC), THE NATION'S LARGEST THEATRE CHAIN. THE "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ACT" WOULD CREATE THE POSITION OF MEDIA OMBUDSMAN TO POLICE THE ACT WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT PRE-CENSORSHIP AND DEFINE THE LIMITS OF FREE EXPRESSION.

4. MOST COMMENTATORS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE REPORT COVERED NOT A PROVINCIAL, BUT RATHER A FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY. EDITORIALY THEY SUGGESTED THE REPORT WOULD RECOMMEND THAT "IF YOU HAVE AN INGROWN TOENAIL, AMPUTATE YOUR FOOT..." (GLOBE & MAIL) THAT "JUDY'S 'TRUTH SQUAD' OF 1963 IS NOW BIG SISTER URGING 1984 IN '77" (TORONTO SUN) AND THE TORONTO STAR CONCLUDING THAT "THE COMMISSION HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP WORRIED CITIZENS WERE SEEKING FROM IT, OR THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RADICAL REORDERING OF CANADA'S BROADCAST INDUSTRY THAT IT RECOMMENDS."

5. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT LAMARSH REPORT SECOND EMBARRASSMENT TO HIT ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS THIS MONTH AFTER HIS FAILURE TO GAIN MAJORITY IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. IN VIEW OF MEDIA REUCTION AND OUR SENSE OF OPINION OF MAN-IN-STREET ABOUT REPORT, ITS VALIDITY AND ITS EXPENSE, DAVIS PERHAPS FORTUNATE THAT ELECTION CAME FIRST OR OPPOSITION CLAIMS OF GOVERNMENT WASTE MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE PROVEN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE WITH REPORT AS PRIME EXAMPLE.

6. COPY OF THE FULL SUMMARY REPORT SENT TO USIS OTTAWA. ADDITIONAL COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO STATE, USIA AND EMBASSY.  
CANTWELL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ONTARIO COMMISSION ON MEDIA VIOLENCE REPORT DRAWS STRONG CRITICISM  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ETEL, SOPN, CA  
**To:** STATE USIA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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